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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

DPMO review completed.

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY Korea

REPORT

SUBJECT Prisoner of War Camps in North Korea

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Anju Prisoner of War Camp

- On 16 March 1953 the Anju (N 39-37, E 125-40) (YD-2988) prisoner of war camp<sup>1</sup> was in the Anju Middle School at YD-282872. The prisoners were housed in the main school building, 100 meters long, 12 meters wide, and 9 meters high, and in the former auditorium, 50 meters long, 20 meters wide, and 7 meters high. The camp was guarded by a security unit of 50 men from the Civil Affairs Department of the Ministry of Defense Affairs. The buildings were surrounded by a concrete wall and six sentry posts were maintained throughout the camp. The prisoners were transported to this camp directly from the front lines, and in several cases, prisoners died on the way. The prisoners arose at 0600 hours, received meals at 0800, 1200, and 1700 hours, and retired at 2100 hours. Each platoon of prisoners was given light labor and guarded by one man. In September 1952 an international party composed of a Soviet escort, an interpreter, a Hungarian and a Czechoslovakian visited the camp and questioned the prisoners for names, ages, and home towns. Soviet advisors visited the camp.

Prisoner of War Camp Number 37

- On 21 February 1953 Prisoner of War Camp Number 37<sup>2</sup> was at YD-556277 in Masan-ni (N 39-04, E 125-57) (YD-5528). There were approximately 300 ROK prisoners and 70 North Korean army guards at the camp. One guard was assigned to each group of 10 prisoners during working hours; one guard was assigned to each house; and

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several other guards patrolled the camp. The prisoners received good treatment and favored prisoners received extra food and cigarettes. Prisoners caught while attempting to escape were tortured. The entire area had been off limits to all civilians since the camp moved to this location in May 1952. The prisoners wore old North Korean army uniforms, shoes, and wrapped their feet in cotton cloth. One mattress and one blanket was issued to every two men. Each prisoner received a daily ration of 300 grams of cereals and 400 grams of rice. The cooking utensils were boiled once a week, and the mattresses and blankets were washed with creosol soap once every 4 days. Although the POW's appeared to be healthy, many of them had attacks of dyspepsia and dysentery. Two medical technicians attended the sick and the more serious cases were sent to some other camp. Medical supplies included anodyne made in Hungary, digestive medicines, and penicillin. The daily routine was as follows: reveille at 0600 hours, breakfast at 0800 hours, lunch at 1200 hours, repair work from 1300 to 1700 hours, rest from 1700 to 1800 hours, supper at 1800, political indoctrination from 1900 to 2030 hours, entertainment from 2030 to 2100, and taps at 2100. Only one third of the prisoners worked in the afternoon, and the groups rotated each day.

3. In February 1953 Prisoner of War Camp Number 37,<sup>2</sup> with 300 ROK POW's, was at YD-556278 near Masan-ni. The camp was moved to this location from P'yongyang in March 1952. Twenty-five North Korean army troops, armed with one Soviet light machine gun, PPSH's, and automatic rifles, guarded the camp. There were three guard posts in the camp; the first post was manned by three guards who were armed with automatic rifles, the second post was manned by three guards armed with a light machine gun, and the third post was manned by three guards armed with one rifle and two PPSH's. Three guards patrolled the camp every three hours at night. The prisoners received a daily ration of 700 grams of grain which included 500 grams of rice, salt, soy bean paste, and vegetables. One North Korean army winter uniform, one summer uniform, one set of underwear, and two pairs of sneakers were issued each year. There were no medical facilities available for the prisoners. The prisoners arose at 0600 hours and went to bed at 2100 hours. Three hours were spent each day for ideological training, and North Korean songs were taught during the recreation period. The prisoners take an examination every two months, and those converted to Communism were to be enrolled into North Korean army units. No prisoners had been converted to Communism since the camp moved to its present location.

1. Comment. A prisoner of war camp. with 300 United Nations POW's, was listed in this area on 10 March 1953.

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2. Comment. Prisoner of War Camp Number 15, a transient camp with 300 ROK prisoners, was listed at YD-553233 and YD-555234, which is in this area.

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Comment. on 25 February 1953 POW Camp Number 37 was at YD-555277 in Masan-ni.

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